

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A machine for slitting plane packaging blanks (3), ~~especially packaging blanks made of corrugated board~~, said machine being of the type including a driving roller assembly (1'a, 1'b, 5', 5'') for advancing said packaging blanks, as well as at least one rotatable slitting roller (7) with at least one knife (9) for producing a front edge slit (11) and/or a rear edge slit (13) in each packaging blank, said knife (9) being sector-shaped, and defined by two knife end edges (9a, 9b), a first knife portion (9A) adjacent the first knife end edge (9a) being adapted to cut the front edge slit (11) out in the front edge (15) of said blank (3), whereas a second knife portion (9B) adjacent the other knife end edge (9b) ~~being~~ is adapted to cut a rear edge slit (13) out in the rear edge (17) of said blank (3) and rearwards through said rear edge (17) while said blank (3) is advanced through the machine at a uniform speed, **characterised in**, that the sector-shaped knife (9) extends over a per se known central angle  $\nu$  of approx 225-300°, and that the knife end edge (9a) of the first knife portion (9A) by means of the slitting roller (7), the driving motor (21) and the programme timer (23) is adapted to be turned from an initial position (S) - in which the knife end edge (9a) is positioned at a predetermined central angle  $x$

(the arc  $\frac{\pi}{180} \nu x$ ) from radius to the cutting site (25) substantially corresponding to the desired slit length - and

a central angle  $x$  forwards until the front edge slit (11) has been cut, and that said knife (9) is retarded when the knife gap (19) is positioned above the blank (3), and that the other knife end edge (9b) of said second knife portion (9B) or an additional knife is adapted also by means of said slitting roller (7), said driving motor (21) and said programme timer (23) to be turned from an initial angular position (y) and downwards into the blank at the cutting site (25) for the production of the rear edge slit (13), and subsequently be turned (9) an arc substantially

corresponding to the length (b) of the rear edge slit (13) of said blank, where said second knife edge is retarded and then turned forwards in such a manner that the first knife end edge (9a) reaches its initial position (S) ready to make slits in a subsequent packaging blank (3).

Claim 2 (original): A machine as claimed in claim 1, **characterised in** that by means of the slitting roller (7), the driving motor (21) and the programme timer (23), the knife (9) is adapted during the cutting of both the front edge slit (11) and the rear edge slit (13) to run at a peripheral speed which is substantially equal to the advancing speed of the packaging blank (3).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A machine as claimed in ~~claims claim 1 or 2~~, **characterised in** that by means of the slitting roller (7), the driving motor (21) and the programme timer (23), the knife (9) is adapted to ensure that during the retarding movement the peripheral speed of said knife (9) is finally zero.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A machine as claimed in ~~claims 1, 2 or 3~~ claim 1, **characterised in** that the central angle  $x$  is in the range  $30^\circ < x < 70^\circ$ , and the angle  $y$  is in the range  $30^\circ < y < 70^\circ$ .

Claim 5 (currently amended): A machine as claimed in ~~one or more of the claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, **characterised in** that the driving motor (21) is a servomotor, ~~such as an electric step motor, or a mechanical/hydraulic driving motor.~~

Claim 6 (currently amended): A machine as claimed in ~~one or more of the claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, **characterised in** that a back-pressure roller (30) is provided below the slitting roller (7), said back-pressure roller (30) ~~for instance including two relatively thin, circular disks interspaced a distance corresponding to the thickness of the knife (9).~~

Claim 7 (new): A machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein said blanks are made of corrugated board.

Claim 8 (new): A machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein the driving motor (21) is an electric step motor.

Claim 9 (new): A machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein the driving motor (21) is a mechanical/hydraulic driving motor.

Claim 10 (new): A machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein the back-pressure roller includes two relatively thin, circular disks interspaced a distance corresponding to the thickness of the knife (9).